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METHODIST MISSIONARY

(Continued from Page 9.)

the people seem happy and contented. They have learned to subsist on foods unused by other nations, such as beetles, snakes, rats and dogs, and the masses seem very well nourished. Rice, of course, is their staple food and a wonderful food it must be to sustain the people so well, without such disastrous effects as seem often to follow the almost exclusive use of other foods. "Berry-berry" (beriberi) is unknown to the Chinese because the rice they use is not the polished rice which is responsible for that disorder of the nerves. If you were to walk through some of the streets of Canton you would wonder how the people escape disease germs, or live at all; streets so narrow that the sun has never shone upon them, so narrow that one can easily touch the opposite stores at the same time. Under similar conditions such a population of Canton would die of contagion or plague in less than a year. The fact must be that the Chinese have lived under the conditions so long that they have become immune from any germs which prove fatal to other races. Then, too, in the struggle of life only the fittest survive in the battle and these are able further to endure unfavorable conditions.

Great Pigtail Cutting.

I arrived in Canton at one of the most interesting times in her history. When I came the queue, which has marked the Chinaman for the last two hundred years or more, at least ever since the present dynasty became all powerful, was still the familiar object on the streets. The barbed head was the exception. But after the revolution became an assured fact in history the queue in a single week lost millions of friends. One week when in the city it was omnipresent, but the very next week it was nowhere to be seen! Handsome switches of glossy, jet black hair could be bought on the streets for five cents. Tons of human hair must have been destroyed in a single week! Old, old men who had never cut their hair for eighty or ninety years of life now readily submitted to the new custom and said farewell to the old friend who had followed them without a murmur for so long. I suppose such a startling earthquake in social custom has never been known in the world's history, if so I have never seen the record. It was no joke with the people either. They were desperately in earnest about it. It was tantamount to saying, "I hereby renounce my allegiance to the Manchu dynasty, the Chinese government and the Chinese flag." Simultaneous with the disappearance of the queue the old dragon flag which has waved over China for centuries, which long antedated the hated Manchu rule, which doubtless often thrilled and stirred the soul of each and all of an intensely loyal people, also disappeared from flag-staff and from mast-head and instead was seen waving the clear sun in a blue sky. The city and province had really fallen into the hands of the revolutionists and a new government assumed control. New appointments were quickly made to official positions and among these young Christian men received more than a proportionate share. How the missionaries are praying for them that their faith fall not in this time of trial. Should they fall to the temptations of official life Christianity shall receive her severest blow yet in China. Join us in prayer that these men may prove faithful and honest at least, that the name of Christ may not be dishonored. Some of them are quite inexperienced in official life and only youths in the Christian way.

Fear of Robbers.
The missionaries from all outstanding fields have been called into Canton by the consuls of the various nations to which they belong, not because the revolutionists are feared, for again and again they have professed their friendship to foreigners, but for fear of robbers and other dangerous characters in the country who might take advantage of the more or less confused state of affairs which is inevitable when governments change hands, and commit robberies in which the missionaries might suffer. We are housing four such refugees here at the college. The missionaries are indeed a fine body of workers. I have been before them twice, once on a Sunday evening, and once during the week of prayer and it was easy to see earnestness written on all their faces and easy to hear a ring of hope and determination in their prayer and testimony. I am perhaps the only representative of Canadian Methodism in Canton but one forgets creed and nationality in the face of the tremendous needs and opportunities for service in the land. I suppose there are but some 150 to 200 missionaries in Canton at the present time from these great provinces. These if distributed in Canton alone would have a congregation of 10,000 each to minister to! One might be excused for exclaiming with the doubtful disciple in the presence of the hungry multitudes "What are these among so many?"

Learning the Language.

I suppose you have been wondering how I am getting along with the study of the language. Well, it is almost too early yet to venture an opinion on that question. When I tell you that missionaries who have been out here for eight and ten years are still studying the language three and four hours a day with a native teacher or teachers you will know that I have undertaken no little task. Besides, most of the missionaries make very little, if any, attempt at all at the study of the Chinese character or written language, and it is my intention to learn to read at least by hymn-book and bible as well as acquire more or less liberty in speech, even though it may take far more time than the Missionary Society has given me abroad. This study can be continued at home after my return.

Let me give you a little idea of the difficulties involved in the study of the language and then perhaps you will pray for me that my faith fall not in the task. In my text-book of Chinese the letter "I" is used to mean seventeen different things, each meaning represented by a totally different character and pronounced with six distinctly different tones or inflections besides an occasional change of tone for which there is no rule. The "I" (pronounced "ee") with one upper rising tone means "a chair" with one of the lower rising tones the same word means "ear." How easy it would be for me with a rather low set voice to be misunderstood by the servant when I ask him to wipe off my chair and he comes along to dust out my ear. We make many just as laughable mistakes as that every day in our effort to master the multitude of tones in the Chinese language.

Delightful Climate.

The climate in Canton is delightful at this time of the year. We are well within the tropics and fruits and flowers and vegetables thrive the year round. Just now we have green corn and green peas and beans as well as ripe oranges and bananas. We are warm enough in our rooms with a little extra wraps without any fires. They tell me to enjoy the weather now for in a very few months it becomes hot, almost too hot for foreigners and then later with the heat comes a wilting humidity which is the hardest condition in the country to endure. However Providence has been kind and I am not borrowing trouble. If I could but drop in once in a while and see the dear ones at home I would be absolutely happy. Let us all rest in the Father's hand and earnestly pray to be made useful in his kingdom and especially to those who need so much a better understanding of Jesus and his love.

Reminder of Athens.

Only yesterday when walking through the country midway between two villages I saw a small shrine built of granite slabs near the roadside and out of curiosity turned aside to examine it. I went inside and found that it contained no idols as all other shrines do. Much incense had been burnt within, however, and upon further examination I learned that this shrine had been erected to Jehovah, for His name was well and beautifully carved in large Chinese characters upon the granite slab above the door, the same characters by which the name of the Almighty is translated throughout the bible as printed for the Chinese. It reminded me of the narrative of Paul where he describes the finding of an idol erected in Athens to the "Unknown God." So these people in their ignorance and superstition have found a place among their many deities for the Infinite and Eternal whom they have thus evidently been trying to find and hungering to know. Oh, how China needs the gospel of Christ and the revelation which has come to humanity through him of a God above who is not only all-powerful, but all-loving and infinitely more than worthy to be loved and adored. Here among this strange but potential people Christ shall still find millions of loyal followers. If China has been faithful to a religion which is founded at best upon superstition who can venture to guess what loyalty she will manifest when she learns of a God and a Christ who are worthy to be loved and when she accepts a religion which is able to save her from her sins and set her free from the spiritual bondage and superstitions dread of the past and the present. Yes, some day the Spirit of God shall fashion for himself a vast army of loyal followers out of this material which has been so long neglected by the Christian church and then instead of innumerable shrines and idols we shall have innumerable churches and pulpits from which shall ring the gospel message from hearts all aglow with love and loyalty to Him to whom that little granite wayside shrine was erected—the world's Jehovah.

If you would go through this land now and see the nature of the sweeping reforms which are taking place I am sure you would agree that the dawn of that day is upon us. Let us unite in a conspiracy of prayer that it may be so.

Affectionately yours,

SMITH S. OSTERHOUT.

P. S. If you wish to use this or any portion of it with the young people you may do so, but I fear it is too

WANT TO RENAME UNION SCHOOL

HILO, February 16.—Miss Josephine Deyo, principal of the Hilo Union school, has addressed the Board of Trade to the effect that now is the time for all good people to speak out with reference to their ideas for the renaming of the school which is coming in for loan fund benefits.

Several names have been suggested, says the communication, but teachers and children seem heartily to prefer "Kanihehua."

"Kanihehua" is significant as well as euphonious, and relates a pretty story. It tells of the gentle, white, mist-like rain moving like a translucent, delicate veil over the lehua-covered lowlands, creeping slowly to the forest line. The red lehua and the white mist are symbolic of the school colors, red and white.

Other names mentioned are: Keakalani, the name of a prince; Keopuolani, the name of the wife of Kamehameha I; Kapiolani, the name of the wife of Kalakaua, and Kuakini, once a governor of this island. Kanihehua, however, suggesting the sweet lehua blossoming through the soft, pearly mist, seems to be the name wanted, if there is any change made.

The communication was read and ordered placed on file.

ORDERS FOR STREET PARADE

(Continued from Page Nine.)

Engineers, on Milliani street, in line, south of Coast Artillery, facing east. First Regiment, National Guard of Hawaii, in Executive grounds, in line, facing east. Right resting at King street entrance to grounds.

Kamehameha Cadet Battalion, on grounds of Judiciary building, in line, facing north, left flank resting on Milliani street.

The Naval Section will be constituted as follows:

One battalion of marines as infantry, with Colt machine guns.
Three battalions of seamen infantry, with Colt machine guns.
One battalion of field artillery.
Colors and bands appropriate to the command.

The units of the naval section will assemble on Richards and Alakea streets, to the south of King street, heads of columns or right of lines resting on King street in such manner as the naval commander may prescribe.

All organizations will be at their designated places of assembly, formations completed by 9:30 a. m.

The head of the parade will move at 9:45 a. m. sharp.

The guide will be right. Cavalry will march in column of platoons of three sets of four each.

Field artillery in column of sections.

Infantry and troops acting as such in column of subdivisions of four squads each.

The units of the naval section will march in such formation as its commander may prescribe.

The line of march will be along King street to Victoria street. Thence along Victoria street to Beretania avenue, passing the reviewing stand on the right between Young street and Beretania avenue. Thence along Beretania avenue to Nuuanu avenue.

Bands will not turn out of columns in passing the reviewing stand.

The general officer commanding will leave the column at Fort street, north of Beretania, from which point he will review the parade as it passes.

At Nuuanu avenue the parade will be dismissed, the organizations returning to their various camps, stations or vessels by the most convenient routes.

Uniforms for the parade: For the Military Section, cotton service uniform with service hats. For the Naval Section, such uniform as may be prescribed by the proper naval authorities.

By command of Brigadier General Macomb.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,

Adjutant General.

hastily written and incoherent to be of much service.

Kind regards to Brother Martin. Tell him I met Rev. Thwing for just one minute two weeks ago, but had no chance to talk of Honolulu and her happy people.

S. S. O.

Mr. Osterhout spent two weeks in Honolulu in August, when on his way to China to study the language. He went under the auspices of the Canadian Methodist church to equip him self for the superintendency of the works among the Chinese in Canada.

Wall Nichols Co., Ltd., have received a big lot of flags by last steamer. Everybody should decorate their homes February 22.

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